JOINT STATEMENT

The Month of Joint Struggle for the Withdrawal of the U.S. Army from South Korea (June 25-July 27) will begin before long in various countries of the world.

This month of activity observed annually from June 25 when U.S. imperialism launched its aggressive war in Korea to July 27 when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed, is of great significance in exposing and condemning the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression and war, isolating them and inspiring the Korean people in their struggle to unify the country with their own efforts.

This year the month is observed in a tense situation in which U.S. imperialism extends its aggressive war against Vietnam, has perpetrated another aggressive war in the Middle East and tries to resume hostilities in Korea.

Fourteen years have already passed since the armistice in Korea following the harsh three-year war caused by U.S. imperialist aggression, but a durable peace still remains unrealized.

Due to the provocative acts of the U.S. side, armed conflicts take place incessantly along the Military Demarcation Line and the Demilitarized Zone in Korea and tension mounts with every passing day.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors have accelerated war preparations in constant violation of the Armistice Agreement since its signing.

They reinforced the puppet troops to more than 600,000, continually introduced weapons of mass destruction such as tactical nuclear weapons and guided missiles and ceaselessly expanded military installations in South Korea. They stepped up the militarization of the South Korean economy and strengthened the "war posture" in every way.

Particularly after U.S. President Johnson's visit to South Korea in October 1966, the U.S. side has been carrying out premeditated military provocations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea more and more frequently.

Armed attacks and gun firings perpetrated by the U.S. side against our side along the Military Demarcation Line during the five months from last October to March this year amount to more than 60 cases, and in the same period they sent various types of naval vessels into our coastal waters to commit hostile acts against us on more than 200 occasions.

The shells and bullets fired by the U.S. side at our side in last April alone far surpass those fired at our side in the last 13 years in violation of the Armistice Agreement since its signing.

The situation presents a complete similarity to .that in 1950 when U.S. imperialism launched the aggressive war in Korea.

At that time too, the U.S. imperialists reinforced their armed forces along the 38th parallel and carried out provocative acts every day against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and eventually made the war-monger, Dulles, sneak into South Korea and kindle the flames of war.

The U.S. is even dragging the Japanese militarists in the carrying out of its policy of aggression against Korea.

The Japanese militarists rearmed by U.S. imperialism have an illusion to actualize their old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" as a reward for joining the U.S. in its aggression in Asia, and are actively stretching out their tentacles of aggression to South Korea.

Since the conclusion of the "South Korea-Japan Treaty" Japan has stepped up its military alignment with the South Korean puppet clique under the co-ordinated U.S. operational plan and pursued the hostile policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea more and more openly.

The U.S. imperialists are running wild to unleash a new war in Korea today, for their colonial rule is shaky in South Korea, they are suffering serious military and political defeats continually in their war of aggression in Vietnam and their strategy for Asian aggression is on the brink of total bankruptcy.

They are making desperate efforts to save themselves from doom by means of aggression and war escalation.

The U.S. imperialist manoeuvres to provoke another war create a serious danger of hostilities breaking out again in Korea at any moment. This is not only a menace to peace in Korea but also another threat to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The occupation of South Korea by U.S. imperialism and its policy of aggression have, indeed, been the very root cause of the indefinite procrastination of Korean unification, and the tragedy of national split of the Korean people for more than 20 years.

Especially the South Korean people, subjugated by U.S. imperialism, are undergoing indescribable misfortunes and sufferings under the military fascist terror, their sovereignty fully denied and even their rudimental democratic freedoms and rights trampled underfoot.

The South Korean people are undergoing stifling political suppression while suffering ever-growing poverty economically.

National culture is being destroyed severely in South Korea and millions of fully and partially unemployed as well as hunger- and penury-stricken mothers and children are wandering about the streets. The Korean people can no longer tolerate the partition of the country.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has consistently made all sincere efforts for the independent unification of the country so as to put an end to the tragedy of territorial division and national split as early as possible and rid the South Korean people of their misfortunes and sufferings.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has invariably maintained that the unification of Korea should be realized by the Korean people themselves free from any interference of outside forces after the withdrawal of all the U.S. and other foreign troops from South Korea, by means of setting up a unified all-Korea Government consisting of the representatives of people of all strata through a free north-south general election on a democratic basis.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed, as an interim measure pending complete unification, to establish a Confederation of North and South Korea, if the South Korean authorities were not in a position to accept the free north-south general election right now.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed economic and cultural interchange and mutual visits between North and South Korea, leaving political questions aside for the time being, if the South Korean authorities could not accept even the idea of a Confederation.

We proposed, if they could not accept even this, to allow as a minimum step exchange of letters between the parents, wives and children, relatives and friends who live separated in the north and south and are not able to hear from each other.

Furthermore, out of the compatriotic desire to alleviate the difficulties of living of the South Korean people even a little, we offered to supply them with relief materials on a number of occasions.

As is seen, all the proposals set forth by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are patriotic ones which manifest our serious concern about the destinies of the country and the nation and reflect the unanimous aspiration of the entire Korean people, they are the most fair and reasonable formulae which are acceptable to anyone who sincerely wants to see the country unified.

But the South Korean authorities under U.S. control have refused all of these proposals.

U.S. imperialism and the South Korean puppet clique clamour about the so-called "Communist threat from the north."

The question of unifying the temporarily divided Korea, however, is not the question of who conquers whom.

With a view to removing the tension artificially created between the north and south, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed to conclude a peace agreement on the north and south refraining from attacks on each other and reduce the armed forces of the two parts of Korea to 100,000 men or less respectively, after the withdrawal of the U.S. armed forces from South Korea.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed its willingness to abrogate military treaties concluded between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and foreign countries on condition that the U.S. armed forces are withdrawn from South Korea and the South Korean authorities likewise abrogate all the military pacts and agreements which they concluded with foreign countries.

The South Korean authorities have turned down these proposals, too. What is more, they harshly suppress any South Korean who expresses sympathies with the reasonable proposals of the Government of our Republic or merely utters the words "unification of the country," on the charge of "treason."

All this is beyond imagination for the Koreans who are anxious to see the nation unified.

The South Korean authorities' refusal of the peaceful unification of Korea, the economic and cultural interchange between North and South Korea, the signing of an agreement on refraining from hostilities among Koreans themselves, and even of mutual visits and postal exchanges lay themselves bare as a gang of traitors to the country who utterly betray the interests of the nation and act solely on orders and instructions of the U.S. aggressors.

The U.S. imperialists have utilized the United Nations as a shield to cover up their aggressive schemes to hamper Korean unification at all costs and ignite another war in Korea.

It was under the U.N. signboard that the United States partitioned Korea and set up their colonial ruling machine in South Korea, and it was also under the U.N. signboard that it waged the sanguinary war of aggression in Korea.

The United States occupies South Korea still now in the name of the United Nations.

These U.S. acts constitute a crime of flagrantly trampling down the U.N. Charter and flouting the U.N. itself.

In the light of its Charter there is no reason whatsoever for the U.N. to meddle in the internal affairs of a nation such as the question of Korean unification.

Moreover, the United Nations has even lost moral authority to involve itself in the Korean question as it was reduced to a belligerent by the U.S. imperialists in their war of aggression against Korea.

The "U.N. Force" in South Korea is nothing but a U.S. imperialist army of colonial marauders usurping the name of the United Nations. The U.S. armed forces constantly perpetrate intolerable national insults and inhuman atrocities against the South Korean people; they not only shoot and run over innocent inhabitants to death for no reason, but also assault and plunder civilian houses, set fire to them and rape women.

The deceptive nature of the so-called "U.N.-supervised election" advertized by the United States and the South Korean authorities too, was further exposed to the whole world through the South Korean "Presidential election" and "National Assembly election" held respectively on May 3 and June 8 in South Korea. The "elections" aroused a fresh indignation of the South Korean people as they were sinister elections which, in oppression and fraudulence, far surpass all the elections held so far in South Korea, including that irregular election of March 15, 1960 which prompted the popular uprising that brought about the shameful end of the Syngman Rhee puppet regime.

Already for several days tens of thousands of students and people of all strata in Seoul and scores of localities of South Korea have been waging mass demonstrations and resistance, denouncing the Pak Jung Hi clique under the slogans of "The June 8th election is null and void," "Punish the prime mover in the election fraud" and so forth in the teeth of police oppression.

The "U.N.-supervised election" is no more than an illegal, fraudulent farce designed to cover up under the U.N. flag the suppression of the people's freedom of expression of their will and the arbitrary concoction of the election returns at the point of the U.S. bayonet.

The United Nations should no longer be used by the U.S. imperialists as a tool for implementing its policy of aggression against Korea and all the illegal "resolutions" it has adopted so far on the "Korean question" must be revoked once and for all.

All the facts show that so long as South Korea remains occupied by the U.S. armed forces and the puppet regime propped up by their bayonets in South Korea, Korea cannot be unified nor can the danger of a new war be removed from Korea.

Why is it that more than 60,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea thousands of miles away from the U.S. mainland today? Their sole purpose is to suppress the liberation struggle of the South Korean people, obstruct the independent unification of Korea and to ignite a new war of aggression so as to extend their colonial fascist rule established in South Korea to the northern half of Korea and, further, to invade the whole of Asia.

It is imperative, therefore, to force the U.S. imperialist aggression army out of South Korea in order to realize the independent unification of Korea and remove the danger of a new war in Korea.

This is the essential prerequisite to the solution of the question of Korean unification. The U.S. army has no ground whatsoever to stay on in South Korea.

There are no foreign troops in North Korea.

Should the U.S. army withdraw from South Korea, there would actually be no big obstacle to the settlement of the question of Korean unification by the Korean people themselves.

For the independent unification of Korea, for peace in Asia and the world, the U.S. army must get out of South Korea at once.

On the occasion of the Month of Anti-U.S. Joint Struggle, the Korean people are firmly determined to carry out a more resolute battle to force the U.S. imperialist aggression army out of South Korea and unify the country peacefully with their own efforts.

We fervently appeal to the international democratic organizations, social organizations in all countries and the peace-loving people of the world to support the Korean people positively in their just struggle for the independent unification of their country and, through the Month of Anti-U.S. Joint Struggle, further step up the worldwide struggle in every way to chase the U.S. army out of South Korea.

The struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggression army from South Korea is part of the struggle of the world's people for peace, national independence and social progress, with which the struggle of the people against imperialism and colonialism is linked inseparably.

Today the U.S. imperialists are making more desperate efforts to extend their war of aggression in Vietnam. They have intensified their bombing of Hanoi, capital of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and Haiphong area and, of late, infiltrated into the Demilitarized Zone in Vietnam on a large-scale in an attempt to lead the war of aggression in Vietnam to a " total war."

Simultaneously with this, the U.S. imperialists, in collusion with the

British imperialists and the Israeli expansionists, perpetrated another barbarous armed intervention against the Arab people in the Middle East.

U.S. imperialism persists in all sorts of aggressive manoeuvrings against Cuba. It is running wild to strangle the national-liberation struggle and subvert new independent countries everywhere in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

All the U.S. imperialist manoeuvrings for aggression and war are a plain challenge to the peoples of the whole world.

U.S. imperialism is the most brazen-faced and outrageous aggressor, the ringleader of war, the bulwark of modern colonialism and the common enemy of the world's people.

The peace-loving people the world over can never remain indifferent to the frenzied U.S. acts of aggression.

The socialist countries, the national independent countries in Asia and Africa and the peace-loving people of the world must concentrate their efforts on the struggle against U.S. imperialism and give decisive blows to its policy of aggression.

In all areas and on all fronts where the U.S. imperialists set foot we must deal blows to them, disperse their forces to the maximum and bind them hand and foot. The Korean people express full support and solidarity for the just struggle of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and the peace-loving people throughout the world against imperialism and colonialism and for peace, national independence and social progress.

We must not only deal blows to the U.S. imperialists but also fight their allies and wipe out their stooges like the Pak Jung Hi clique of South Korea.

On U.S. instructions, the South Korean puppet clique have sent over 50,000 puppet troops to take part in the war of aggression in South Vietnam and commit all kinds of atrocities against the South Vietnamese people.

By so doing the Pak Jung Hi gangs have laid themselves bare not only as the traitors to the Korean people but also as the heinous servitors and hangmen of U.S. imperialism in its endeavour to stifle the national-liberation movement of the Asian and African peoples.

We can safeguard world peace only by unfolding a resolute struggle against U.S. imperialism and can prevent it from running amok everywhere only by thoroughly wiping out its lackeys.

The desperate endeavours of the U.S. imperialists to unleash aggression and war in every corner of the world today testify that their days are numbered.

The further the imperialists are driven into a tight corner, the more desperately they act to save themselves. But it only hastens their ruin.

The myth about the mightiness of the United States was shattered into dusts when it suffered the severe defeat in the Korean war, and U.S. imperialism has been on the decline ever since.

The fact that U.S. imperialism suffers one defeat after another at present in its war of aggression in South Vietnam though it has hurled there huge armed forces equipped with up-to-date weapons proves all the more clearly that its downfall is inevitable.

No force on earth can check the downfall of imperialism and the triumph of socialism and the national-liberation revolution.

Ours is an era of revolution and an era of struggle against U.S. imperialism.

The peace-loving people of the whole world will pool their strength and wage an uncompromising fight against the U.S.-led imperialism to the end so as to ensure a lasting peace and security for mankind and attain final victory for the struggle for liberation and independence.

Today we Korean people are in the forefront of the anti-U.S., anti-imperialist struggle.

In the light of the manoeuvrings of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys to ignite a new war, we are making full preparations to counter the situation and are training the People's Army into an army of cadres and modernizing it, arming the entire people and turning the whole country into a fortress.

Our people are rallied rock-firm around their respected and beloved leader, Premier Kim Il Sung, and are filled with the fighting will to wipe the U.S. imperialist aggressors off this soil for ever if they dare launch a new war.

The Korean people will definitely drive out the U.S. imperialist aggression army from South Korea and achieve the independent unification of the country with the positive support and encouragement of the peoples the world over.

We firmly believe that during the forthcoming Month of Anti-U.S. Joint Struggle, international democratic organizations, social organizations of all countries and the peace-loving people of the whole world will use various ways and means according to their own conditions to condemn the occupation of South Korea by U.S. imperialism and its acts of aggression, demand the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. army from South Korea and render active support to the Korean people in their struggle for the independent unification of the country.

Committee for the Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland
Korean National Peace Committee
Korean Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity

General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea
Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea
League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea
Korean Democratic Women's Union
General Federation of Literary and Art Unions of Korea
Korean Journalists' Union
Korean Association of Democratic Lawyers
Korean Association of Democratic Scientists
Students' Committee of Korea

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